



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The July 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.9 percent as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point from the June 2002 rate of 4.7 percent and up five-tenths of a percentage point from the July 2001 rate of 4.2 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from June to July 2002 by 100 individuals, and an increase of 500 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,900 in June to 12,400 in July. The increase in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 600 individuals from June to July 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 2,000 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the July 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: July 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	182,728	7,928	4.3	174,800
Adams	1,703	221	13.0	1,482
Boise	2,669	173	6.5	2,497
Canyon	70,255	4,444	6.3	65,811
Elmore	10,029	893	8.9	9,136
Gem	6,166	514	8.3	5,652
Owyhee	4,852	263	5.4	4,590
Payette	9,627	581	6.0	9,046
Valley	4,111	364	8.9	3,747
Washington	4,418	348	7.9	4,070
Statewide	690,334	37,447	5.4	652,887

About 1,600 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between June and July 2002 while there was an increase of 500 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since July 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 300 jobs month-over-month with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (100), *Wood Buildings*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	July 2002*	June 2002	July 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,000	252,400	251,000	0.2	0.8
Unemployment	12,400	11,900	10,500	4.2	18.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.7	4.2		
Total Employment	240,600	240,500	240,500	0.0	0.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	256,200	254,700	254,300	0.6	0.7
Unemployment	12,100	11,500	10,200	5.2	18.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.5	4.0		
Total Employment	244,100	243,200	244,100	0.4	0.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	231,200	232,800	230,700	-0.7	0.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,800	51,100	54,000	-0.6	-5.9
Construction & Mining	16,200	16,300	17,100	-0.6	-5.3
Manufacturing	34,600	34,800	36,900	-0.6	-6.2
Durable Goods	26,300	26,300	28,500	0.0	-7.7
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,200	3,200	-3.1	-3.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	900	900	-11.1	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,300	7,300	7,800	0.0	-6.4
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,300	11,200	12,500	0.9	-9.6
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	2,000	0.0	-20.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,500	8,400	-2.4	-1.2
Food & Kindred Products	5,600	5,700	5,600	-1.8	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,800	1,600	-11.1	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	900	900	-11.1	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	180,400	181,700	176,700	-0.7	2.1
Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities	12,400	12,400	12,200	0.0	1.6
Transportation	6,900	6,900	6,900	0.0	0.0
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	5,500	5,500	5,300	0.0	3.8
Trade	56,900	57,000	56,700	-0.2	0.4
Wholesale Trade	13,000	13,200	12,800	-1.5	1.6
Durable Goods	8,000	8,100	7,900	-1.2	1.3
Nondurable Goods	5,000	5,100	4,900	-2.0	2.0
Retail Trade	43,900	43,800	43,900	0.2	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	5,700	5,700	5,500	0.0	3.6
Foods Stores	7,500	7,300	7,700	2.7	-2.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,600	0.0	0.6
Other Retail Trade	15,000	15,100	15,100	-0.7	-0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,800	11,900	11,600	-0.8	1.7
Business Services	64,600	64,500	62,300	0.2	3.7
Health Services	13,700	13,900	14,300	-1.4	-4.2
Hospitals	19,100	19,200	18,100	-0.5	5.5
Eng, Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	9,100	9,200	8,300	-1.1	9.6
Other Services	5,700	5,700	5,200	0.0	9.6
Government	26,100	25,700	24,700	1.6	5.7
Federal Government	34,700	35,900	33,900	-3.3	2.4
State Government	5,500	5,400	5,300	1.9	3.8
Education	12,600	12,600	12,700	0.0	-0.8
Administration	3,600	3,600	3,500	0.0	2.9
Local Government	9,000	9,000	9,200	0.0	-2.2
Education	16,600	17,900	15,900	-7.3	4.4
Administration	10,300	11,600	9,800	-11.2	5.1
Administration	6,300	6,300	6,100	0.0	3.3

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

& Mobile Home Manufacturing (100), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) primarily *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods* (200), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). Job gains occurred in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (100) and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,200 jobs with no job gains. Job losses occurred in: *Mining & Construction* (900), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (500), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipments & Component Manufacturing* (1,200), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (400), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). There were no *Goods-Producing Industries* creating new jobs over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 1,300 jobs between June and July 2002. Job losses in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (100), *Finance, Insurance and Real Estate* (100), *Business Services* (100), *Health Services* primarily *Hospitals* (100), and *Local Government Education* (1,300) outpaced job increases in *Food Stores* (200), *Other Services* (400), and *Federal Government* (100) to create the net decrease in the number of *Service-Producing Industries* jobs lost over the month. Most of the job losses occurred in *Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts close for the summer. In the year-over-year comparison, there was an increase of 3,700 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (200), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (200), *Health Services* (1,000) primarily *Hospitals* (800), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (500), *Other Services* (1,400), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Education* (100), *Local Government Education* (500), and *Local Government Administration* (200) outpacing job losses in *Food Stores* (200), *Other Retail Trade* (100), *Business Services* (600), and *State Government Administration* (200).

SPECIAL TOPIC

U.S. Economy

In early August, *USA Today* reported that the U.S. economy looked sluggish. The revised seasonally adjusted data showed that the economy shrank for three straight quarters in 2001, which was not expected. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose only a fraction of what

analysts predicted for the second quarter. Analysts were disappointed, but hopeful about the release by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as it stated that while the recovery is slow, it is on track, and the United States will not slip back into a recession. Market analysts continue to be optimistic about the nation's economic growth as business investment in software and equipment grew for the first time since the third quarter of 2000. Firms are still liquidating inventories, but at the slowest pace in a year and a half, and exports grew at the fastest pace in two years. All of this news suggests that the U.S. economy is undergoing some healthy development while foreign economies and their demand for U.S. products is improving.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Horizon Air announced in mid-August that it would offer winter season daily nonstop jet service from Boise to Phoenix from October 27 through April 27.
- Wal-Mart opened another supercenter in Garden City in mid-August. The Wal-Mart is located on a large lot at the corner of Glenwood and State. The supercenter carries a full line of groceries and general merchandise and is open 24 hours. Home Federal Savings also opened an in-store branch at the new Wal-Mart.
- The Boise Factory Outlets has added OshKosh B'Gosh, Springmaid-Wamsutta, and Hanes Bali Playtex to its list of retailers. OshKosh B'Gosh is a global marketer of clothing and accessories and is already open. Springmaid-Wamsutta, a retailer that carries sheets, towels, and comforters, is scheduled to open in the space adjacent to Toy Liquidators by September 30. Hanes Bali Playtex is an undergarment retailer that will open a store next to Payless Shoe Source by October 10.
- Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) recently opened two business programs geared toward adult professionals in Boise—the MBA program is a 15-month business master's program and the STEP program is an accelerated undergraduate business degree. Both programs begin this fall. The classes are held in the basement of the C.W. Moore Plaza in downtown Boise.
- Hyde Park Place, a proposed single two-and-a-half-story building to house 44 condominiums, could be built on the south side of Fort Street between 12th and 13th Streets in Boise. The building would include 65,000-square feet of space. Construction on the complex is expected to begin in March and be completed late next year once all city approvals are granted.

- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center will break ground on its \$11 million outpatient care center in West Meridian in late September. The Saint Alphonsus Meridian Health Plaza is scheduled to open in April and will include two operating rooms for outpatient surgery, an urgent care clinic, offices for family and internal medicine doctors, and radiology services including Xrays, mammograms, and ultrasounds.
- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County were given the keys to the former Meridian police station to begin renovations for their new club. The club will be able to serve more than 400 youth and will include a technology center, art room, and game room. Renovations could be completed and the Boys and Girls Club of Meridian could open by December 15, 2002.
- Michaels of Oregon, a hunting and shooting accessory company, will consolidate the operations of three of its manufacturing plants into one building in Meridian. The new 100,000-square-foot plant will take over the manufacturing of a number of the company's products currently made at plants in Coatsville, Pa; Belgrade, Mont; and Boise. The new plant is expected to be operational by mid-October. Potentially, 100 new jobs could be created if employees from the Montana and Pennsylvania plants do not transfer to the Meridian facility.
- Intermountain Outdoor Sports announced its closure in early August. The retailer held a liquidation sale in mid-August in which all merchandise, including guns, hunting, fishing, camping equipment, and clothing were sold to the public. This closure marks the last of three Intermountain Outdoor Sports closures in the past few years.
- The Meridian Planning & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Meridian City Council approve the request for annexation and zoning of a new middle school site. The site is located at the corner of North Linder Road and West Ustick Road. The request now goes to the city council for consideration.
- The Meridian Chamber of Commerce moved into a remodeled office in late July. The chamber office is located in Storey Park. The expansion provides meeting space for the chamber's board as well as a private office and an expanded visitor's center.
- The Eagle City Hall plans were reviewed, changed by the architect, and approved by Ada County Commissioners in early August. Construction of the new 22,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to begin in October and will be completed in May. The \$4.3 million project will be built on a lot between the post office and the library on Amanita Street.
- Crucial Technology, a division of Micron, recently added the 128 MB MultiMediaCard to its flash card line. The card may be used in a variety of electronic devices including digital cameras, handheld computers, and digital music players.
- Extended Systems recently laid off 12 people at its Boise site. In an effort to rebalance its workforce, hiring in other areas will offset the layoffs, according to company officials. The layoffs occurred in Research and Development and Administration departments.
- MicronPC announced that employees would receive bonuses in mid-August. The company's 1,000 employees shared in more than \$350,000 in profit-sharing bonuses. In August, the company also released its fourth server line, the NetFRAME 6500. This server offers up to four times as much memory as previous servers. The targeted customers of NetFRAME 6500 are medium-sized businesses and government entities.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in mid-September. The \$3.6 million building will include a museum, lecture hall, conference room, gift shop, classrooms, computer lab, a teaching kitchen, and a bilingual library. The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho will host cultural events and offer extensive job training and economic development programs.
- Construction started on the Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter) located at Boise State University's (BSU) Canyon County Campus. The \$3.4 million facility is the first building on the BSU West Campus. The 38,000-square-foot center is based on a plan developed by BSU, Idaho Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to help local entrepreneurs develop products and businesses by working with the BSU resources. The TECenter is expected to open in early 2003.
- Wells Fargo Bank recently announced plans to open a branch across from the Edwards Cinema complex in Nampa. The 5,200-square-foot branch is scheduled to open this winter.
- Other recent business openings in Ada County include: American Family Insurance in Boise, Kahootz Pub & Eatery in Meridian, PetCo in Boise, a second Shooting World outdoor range in Boise, a new Zions Bank branch on Fairview Avenue in Boise, Sliders Indoor Kart Racing on North Orchard in Boise, Boise Self Storage on West Vincent Street in Boise, and Behind the Chair Hair and Nail Salon on Avenue D in Kuna. A Johnny Carino's restaurant is planned for the Meridian Crossroads center that will open in March, the Mountain View Credit Union

moved to new offices on Dresden Place in Garden City, and Pioneer Title and Two Rivers Salon & Spa announced plans to move to the Rivershore South Building in Eagle.

- Recent business happenings in Canyon County include the openings of Rock, Paper, Scissors, a scrap-booking store in Nampa, and the Tucker Bean Co., an antique and collectibles shop in Nampa.

Adams County

- Dr. Monte Eppich recently opened dental practices in Cambridge (Adams County) and Council (Washington County). The Cambridge office is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays; the Council office provides services on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Elmore County

- The Elmore County Fair and Rodeo was held in late July and event organizers estimate that 9,500 people attended the fair this year. This was down from last year's attendance of 10,000, but was still considered a success. In addition to the rodeo, there were band performances, a hypnotist, and various 4-H competitions.

Gem County

- The Gem County Jail recently held a groundbreaking celebration. All of the preliminary work to clear the lot for the actual construction has been completed and the project has started. Also, Gem County Commissioners signed the jail bond ordinance in mid-August, allowing construction to begin.

Payette County

- The Payette City Council approved a plan to remodel the pilot's lounge in the city hangar at the Payette Airport. Construction started and the project is scheduled to be completed by November.
- The second phase of a four-phase renovation project at Holy Rosary Medical Center was started in August. A 65,000-square-foot addition is being constructed that will house outpatient and emergency services as well as surgical facilities. This phase of the renovation project will cost nearly \$20 million and will provide greater efficiency and increase recovery times for patients. No completion date was set.

Valley County

- Construction began on WestRock in Valley County in mid-August. Road and infrastructure development has started on the area under the direction of Washington Group International (WGI).

- The City of Cascade may annex the former Boise Cascade sawmill property into the city. The property could net nearly \$3,500 in taxes, as well as be covered by city planning codes in case of any future development of the property. Boise Cascade Corporation officials will remove all debris from the property before the company will decide what to do with the property.
- Aspen Ridge, a 130-acre development containing 145 home sites and 120 townhouses, is proposed near the McCall Golf Course, east of Spring Mountain Ranch. A public hearing was held in early August and the McCall Planning and Zoning Commission heard several reports about the project. The commission has not determined whether or not to allow the Aspen Ridge development to start.
- Dr. Jennifer Gray recently joined the staff at the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic in McCall. Dr. Gray will also spend one day a week seeing patients in Council at the new Council Mountain Medical Clinic, which is scheduled to open in September.

Washington County

- Dr. Shane Newton is setting up a dental practice in Weiser. His office is located in the East Liberty Street Clinic.
- The Washington County Fair and Rodeo was held in early August in Cambridge and was a big success, according to event organizers.
- Weiser Memorial Hospital has announced plans to start work on a master facility plan to update its 52-year-old building. Recently, the hospital expanded services and worked on improving staff morale. The first goal of the new plan is to eventually renovate the hospital building to create more space and update the facility in an effort to offer modern medical services. The master facility plan is 40 percent complete.

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